

Coin Board News

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Other than the more familiar Whitman titles, I've been able to find very few new items to offer for sale. There are, however, a couple of highlights in my latest Price List #110. The first is a very sweet Kent Company board for Liberty Nickels in high grade. The other is a factory-bound volume of Whitman Second Edition boards, Volume 1, something I'm very rarely able to offer. These prizes will both sell very quickly.

After a long dry spell, there have been a number of coin board offerings on the internet. Most have been quite average pieces, but what's remarkable is the prices some have brought. There are evidently new players involved who are willing to pay over catalog value for anything that isn't damaged or excessively worn. It's possible that these are buyers unaware of my book and its catalog values, as some of the sales were above the figures on my own price lists for comparable boards.

Two notable offerings were from the same seller and brought very strong prices. These were a pair of First Edition Whitman boards with the scarce, black backings, one for Liberty Head Nickels and one for Buffalo Nickels. Each brought over catalog value, with me as the underbidder. I was eager to get these, as it appeared from the images that they had matte face paper, which would have made them new varieties. It's always hard to tell such subtleties from internet auction photos, but they were nice purchases for some collector in any case.

New discoveries are still turning up, and the latest is a nice entry from Whitman's First Edition. Previously known with a red backing of slick, plain paper, the Mercury Dime board has surfaced with a pebbled backing, too. As it likely predates the plain version, this requires a little adjustment to the catalog number. The plain paper version is now W10¢D1a.2, so that the newly discovered board with the pebbled backing may be labeled W10¢D1a.1. In all other aspects they are identical.

Another new discovery is a version of the First Edition bound volume of Whitman boards not found in my book, as the exact lineup of board varieties is different from the three published ones. It appears that Whitman made no effort at consistency when assembling these albums, and additional varieties are likely to turn up in time. For the record, variety WBV1d includes boards W1¢C1d, W1¢D1f, W5¢B1d, W5¢C1c, W10¢C1c, W10¢D1a.2, W25¢A1d, W25¢B1c and W25¢C1c.

With the discovery of the new Mercury variety, I should add that all four varieties of the First Edition board album feature W10¢D1a.2, the one with plain, red paper. And, though I may have reported this before, WBV1c includes Lincoln Penny board W1¢D1f and not W1¢D1d as shown in my book. Another correction concerns the Second Edition album WBV2.1b, which includes board W5¢C2f and not W5¢C2e as shown in my book.

Once again collector Chris Buck has found an interesting item which adds to the coin board story. He's turned up a mule in the Lincoln Printing Company series which combines the face of Lincoln Penny board L1¢Bi with a backing intended for Indian Penny board L1¢Ab. Since this was obviously an assembly error and not an intentional variety, it won't receive a separate catalog number. There are also some additional changes to my sequencing of this company's boards for Lincoln Pennies, but these are a little too complicated to get into here with the space remaining. I'll report on them next time, along with a new discovery for J. Oberwise & Company.

Dave

David W. Lange POB 110022 Lakewood Ranch, FL 34211 941-586-8670
www.coincollectingboards.net

